

168.5 Employee Responsibility for Shipment of Personally Owned Firearms and Ammunition

It is the responsibility of each employee to consult the post report to determine the restrictions and limitations, if any, that are placed upon the shipment of personally owned firearms or ammunition into the country of assignment. The post report will include the prescribed procedures that must be complied with under host country regulations when firearms and ammunition are authorized. Where post reports are not available, the employee, before initiating shipment of firearms or ammunition, must secure in writing authorization and approval from the Chief of Mission.

When an employee transfers direct without Washington assignment from one post to another post where no, or fewer firearms are authorized, the employee must send the excess, or all, firearms back to the United States in accordance with regulations governing the importation of firearms and ammunition. (See Sections 6 FAM 183.2-1 and 10 FAM 180.)

183.2-1 Importation of Personally Owned Firearms and Ammunition into the United States

The importation provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968, which became effective on October 22, 1968, are administered and enforced by the Internal Revenue Service, Treasury Department. Executive Order 11432, effective October 22, 1968, transferred the importation provisions of Section 414(B) of the Mutual Security Act, as amended, from the Secretary of State to the Secretary of the Treasury. The Internal Revenue Service issued comprehensive regulations effective December 16, 1968 setting forth the rules governing the shipment of firearms and ammunition. The regulation governing the shipment of firearms and ammunition, entitled "Part 178 - Commerce in Firearms and Ammunition" (26 CFR 178), provides:

A. Personnel may ship to the United States any firearms or ammunition which they originally shipped from the United States provided they can prove to the satisfaction of the U. S. Customs officials that they possessed the firearms or ammunition in the United States.

Methods of proof are:

1. Bill of sale receipt
2. Registration or Customs Form 4457
3. Household effects inventory or packing list prepared in the U. S. on outbound shipments
4. A sworn statement in the form of an affidavit attested to and bearing the official seal of the Consular Office at the employee's overseas post of assignment.

Personnel able to meet one of the above methods of proof may have their firearms shipped back to the United States packed inside the household effects container. Ammunition must be packed separately and under no circumstances included in household effects or baggage shipments.

B. Personnel who purchase firearms or ammunition outside of the United States must arrange for its importation into the United States strictly in accordance with the regulation (26 CFR 178.113). This applies to the U. S. manufactured as well as foreign manufactured firearms and ammunition. There are no exemption provisions for civilian Government employees nor are there any waiver provisions.

Personnel in this category must arrange for an importer or dealer located in their state residence in the United States to handle the importation of their firearms or ammunition. The owner must complete an application in triplicate for a permit, IRS Form 6, and forward the application to the importer or dealer who will complete the application and forward it to the Internal Revenue Service, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C. A single permit will cover one or more firearms and one or more types of ammunition.

The firearms and ammunition must be shipped directly to the importer or dealer handling the importation. Under no circumstances may firearms and ammunition in this category be included in household or personal effects shipments to the United States or shipped separately in care of the U. S. Despatch Agents.

Shipments of firearms or ammunition may be charged against the travel authorizations of the employee concerned. The method of shipment must be determined by each post on the basis of available facilities.